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Majority of Babies Born in California Are Latino, UCLA Study Finds; Majority of State's Future Students, Workers, Voters Are Latino

The Latino majority has arrived in California with the majority of babies born in the state being Latino, foreshadowing the state's future students, workers and voters, according to a UCLA study.

The era of the Latino majority among babies in California began in the summer of 2001 — more than half, 50.2 percent, of all babies born in the third quarter of 2001 were Latino, and 50.6 percent in the fourth quarter of 2001 were Latino, according to a study by the UCLA Center for the Study of Latino Health and Culture.

"The majority of children born in California are now Latino. As a result, the health, well-being and education of Latino children now concern the majority of all children, not a small minority," said David Hayes-Bautista, director of the center. "Latino issues are now the state's mainstream, majority issues."

The Latino majority will ripple throughout California's society, institutions, economy and politics throughout the 21st century. In fall 2006, the majority of children entering the state's kindergartens will be Latino, and in fall 2014, the majority of children entering high schools will be Latino. The majority of new workers entering the state's labor force in fall 2017 will be Latino, and the majority of young adults eligible to vote in fall 2019 will be Latino.

"The long-anticipated Latino majority has arrived," he said. "In 2003, it is learning how to walk, and will shortly learn to talk. For the next 40 years, each new phase of human development — child, adolescence, young adult and middle age — will be experienced in this state by a Latino majority."

Researchers also looked at births of other ethnic groups in reviewing the 2001 birth data. While 50.2 percent of births in the third quarter were Latino babies, 31.4 percent of the births were non-Hispanic whites, 11.3 percent were Asian/Pacific Islander and 6.1 percent were African American. Similarly, in the fourth quarter, 50.6 percent of the births were Latino, compared to 30.4 percent for non-Hispanic whites, 11.7 percent for Asian/Pacific Islander and 6.1 percent for African American.

Researchers also compiled a county-by-county comparison of Latino births by examining statistics for the 138,892 births reported in the third quarter of 2001 and the 132,482 births reported in the fourth quarter of 2001.

2-2-2 Latino Majority in California

More than two-thirds of Latino babies were born in Southern California. But researchers noted that Latino births now occur in nearly all counties, signaling a shift in the state's future demographic trends.

According to the study focusing on the last two quarters of 2001, the percentage of Latino births was not uniform in all counties — it varied in range from nearly 90 percent in Imperial County to zero percent of the seven births in Sierra County.

In Los Angeles County in the third quarter, 63.5 percent of the children born were Latino, compared with 52.1 percent in Ventura County, 50.6 percent in Orange County and 45.5 percent in San Diego County. The percentages were similar in the fourth quarter, with Los Angeles County at 63.4 percent, Ventura County at 53.9 percent, Orange County at 49.7 percent and San Diego County at 44.5 percent.

“In a number of counties — Imperial, Madera, Monterey, Tulare and Colusa — Latinos are more than just a majority,” Hayes-Bautista said. “They are a super-majority — that is, two-thirds or more of all babies born.”

The trend in the increase in Latino births can be measured beginning in 1975 when 26.5 percent of the births in California were Latino. In 1980, 29 percent of the babies born were Latino; in 1985, the number grew to 31.1 percent; in 1990, Latino births increased to 38.6 percent; and in 1995, Latino births rose to 45.8 percent. From 1997 to 2001, the Latino birth proportion rose from 47.5 percent to 49.5 percent. Data from 2001 showed Latino births in the first quarter were 48.7 percent, in the second quarter were 48.4 percent, in the third quarter were 50.2 percent and in the fourth quarter were 50.6 percent.

“The future of California looks very much like its 19th-century past — once again the majority of the population, in the toddler age group, is Latino,” he said. “To the extent we invest in this new majority, our future looks good. And, to the extent we choose not to invest, our own future looks grim. The choice is entirely ours.”

Data for the study came from the Department of Health Services Master Birth Files from 1997 to 2001.

THE LATINO MAJORITY HAS EMERGED

**LATINOS COMPRISE MORE THAN 50 PERCENT
OF ALL BIRTHS IN CALIFORNIA**

By

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THE LATINO MAJORITY HAS EMERGED: LATINOS COMPRISE MORE THAN 50 PERCENT OF ALL BIRTHS IN CALIFORNIA

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More than 25 years ago, in 1975, when Latinos were a small minority of the state's population, Latinos were also a small minority of the state's births: 26.5 percent of all births in the state were Latino. In that year, the vast majority of births — 61.3 percent — were non-Hispanic white. During the mid-1970s, the health, well-being and education of Latino children were often viewed as “minority” issues, which could be (and often were) treated separately and apart from the “mainstream” or “majority” children's issues.

The state's Latino population, driven in large part by higher fertility, grew tremendously after that year, and the percentage of births that were Latino increased year after year. (Please see Figure 1.)

- 1980: Latinos were 29 percent of all births.
- 1985: Latinos were 31.1 percent of all births.
- 1990: Latinos were 38.6 percent of all births.
- 1995: Latinos were 45.8 percent of all births.

By the mid-1990s, Latino babies represented the plurality of all born: the largest single group, but not a majority. The health, well-being and education of Latino children weighed heavily among the state's children, but they were not yet the issues of the majority of the state's children.

In the late 1990s and after, the percentage of births that Latino babies represented in any given year drew close to being a majority. (Please see Figure 2.)

- 1997: 47.5 percent
- 1998: 47.5 percent
- 1999: 48.1 percent
- 2000: 48.6 percent
- 2001: 49.5 percent

The births for the entire year 2001 show Latinos as being nearly a majority. However, when the births that occurred that year are analyzed quarter by quarter, the conversion of Latino births from plurality to majority is clearly shown. Beginning with the third quarter of 2001 (July, August, September), more than half of all births in the state were Latino: 50.2 percent, a majority of all births during that quarter. This trend continued into the

fourth quarter of 2001 (October, November, December), with Latino births comprising 50.6 percent of all births during that period. (Please see Figure 3.)

A major demographic milestone has been passed: Since July 2001, the new Latino majority of California's population has made its appearance in the state's newborn population — the majority of children born in the state are now Latino.

Table A lists the percentage of Latinos in every county's birth population in the third quarter. The county at the top of the list, with the highest Latino percentage, was Imperial County, with 89.2 percent of all babies born categorized as Latino. Counties are listed in descending order. (Table B lists the counties in alphabetical order.)

From a long-term perspective, in passing this milestone, California has returned to its historic pattern of a Latino majority among its children, which was the norm for the state until the late 1850s.

Stated differently, the average child born in California is now Latino. As a result, the health, well-being and education of Latino children now concern the majority of all children, not a small minority. Latino issues are now the state's mainstream, majority issues.

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The long-awaited, often-anticipated Latino majority in California is no longer a theoretical, abstract, future possibility. It has arrived, as of the third quarter, 2001.

Contrary to popular opinion, the new Latino majority is quite American, by virtue of being born in the United States. While the parents may be immigrant, the new Latino majority is U.S. citizen, through and through.

This Latino majority will ripple throughout the state's society, institutions, economy and body politic throughout the remainder of the 21st century:

- Fall, 2006: the majority of children entering the state's kindergartens will be Latino.
- Fall, 2014: the majority of children entering the state's high schools will be Latino.
- Fall, 2017: the majority of new workers entering the state's labor force and economy will be Latino.
- Fall, 2019: the majority of young adults eligible to vote by virtue of having turned 18 years of age will be Latino.

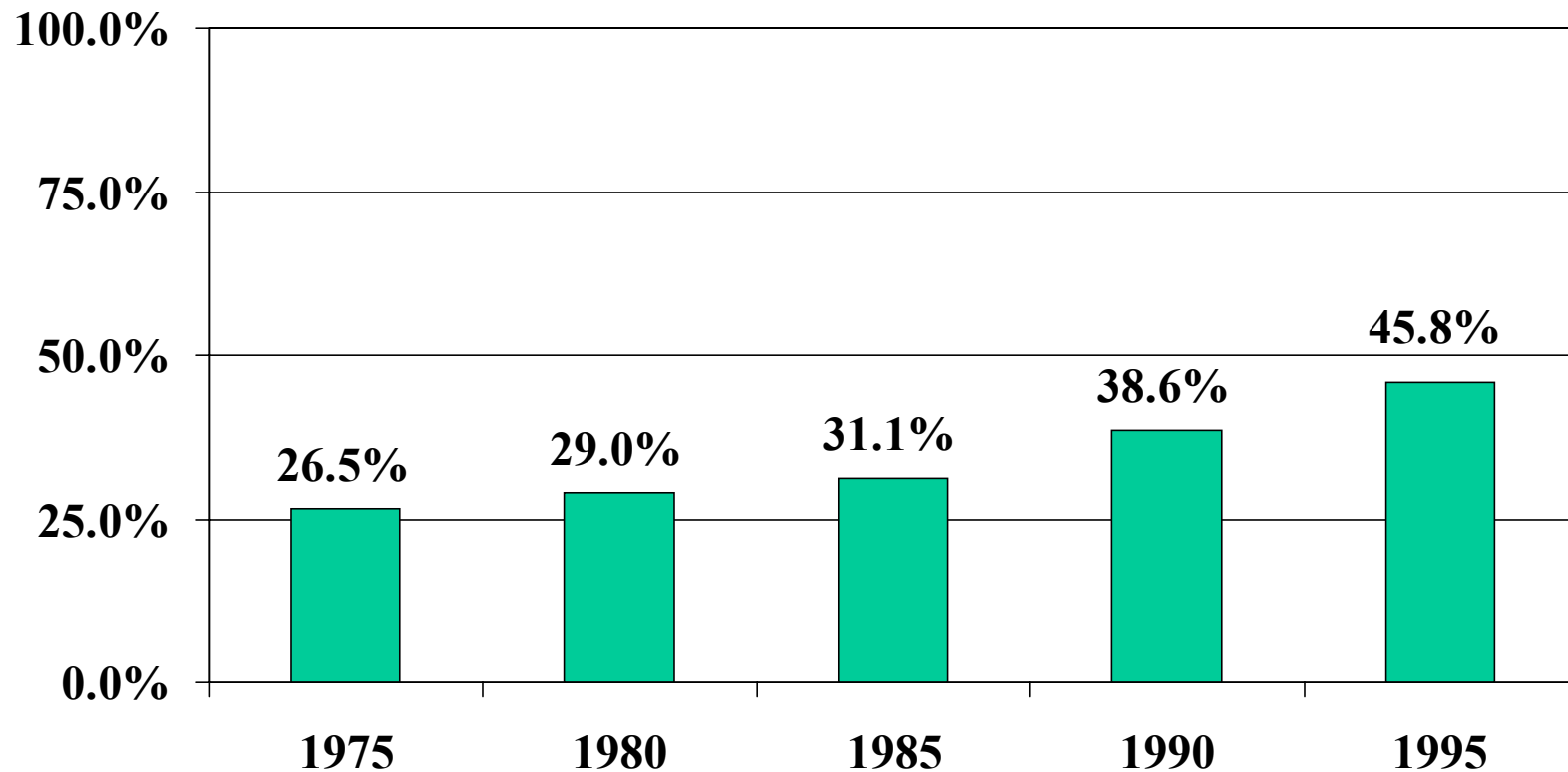
The near- to mid-range future of California now depends upon the investments made in the state's new majority as of today. To the extent that young Latino voters of 2019 are

well-educated, economically productive, with a desire for civic participation, California will prosper. And, conversely, to the extent that the young Latino voters of 2019 have been poorly educated, are not fully economically productive, and feel alienated from civic participation, the state's future will be quite grim.

California policymakers are in the unique position of being able to choose their future. If they choose to invest wisely in the new Latino majority of the state, the state's good fortunes can be assured. Budget crises to the contrary, *now* is the time to make social investments, not at some future date.

And, perhaps symbolically, the first day of that third quarter when Latino babies became the majority was July 4, 2001. The America of the future has arrived, and it is, as of that date, largely Latino.

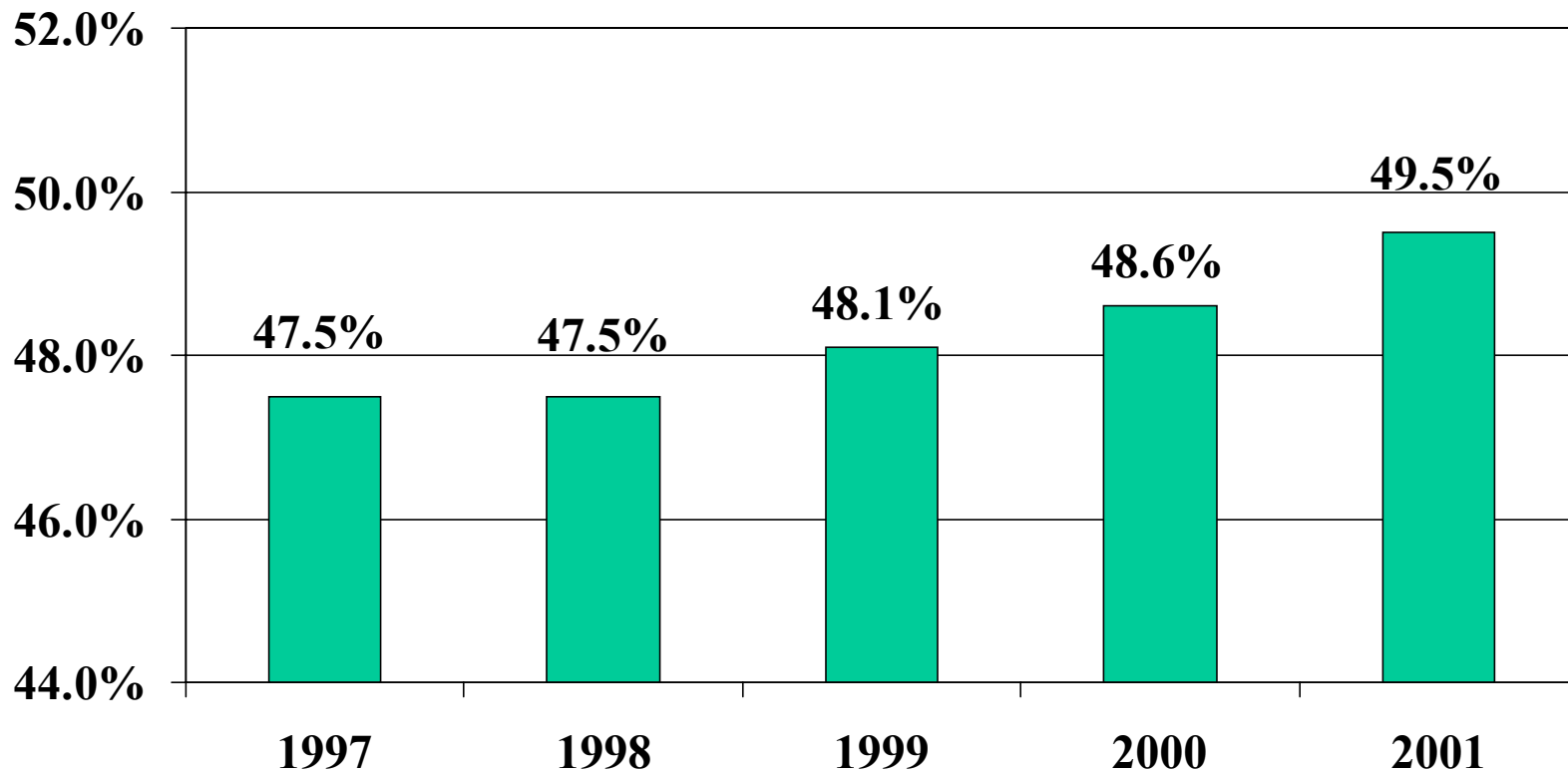
Figure 1
Latinos as Percent of All Births, California,
1975-1995



Source: California
Department of Finance, 1997

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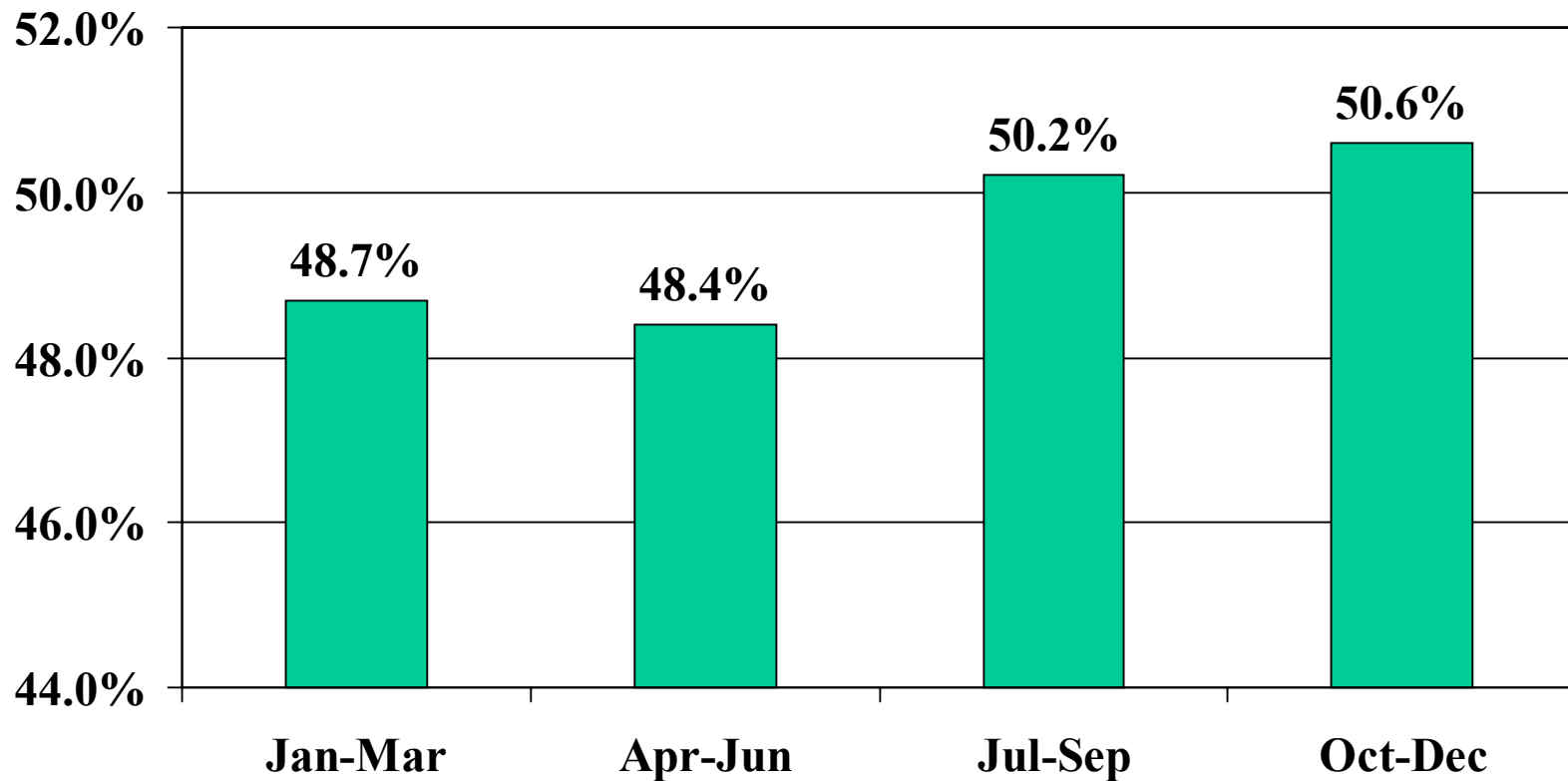
Figure 2
Latinos as Percent of All Births, California,
1997-2001



Source: California DHS Master
Birth Files, 1997-2001

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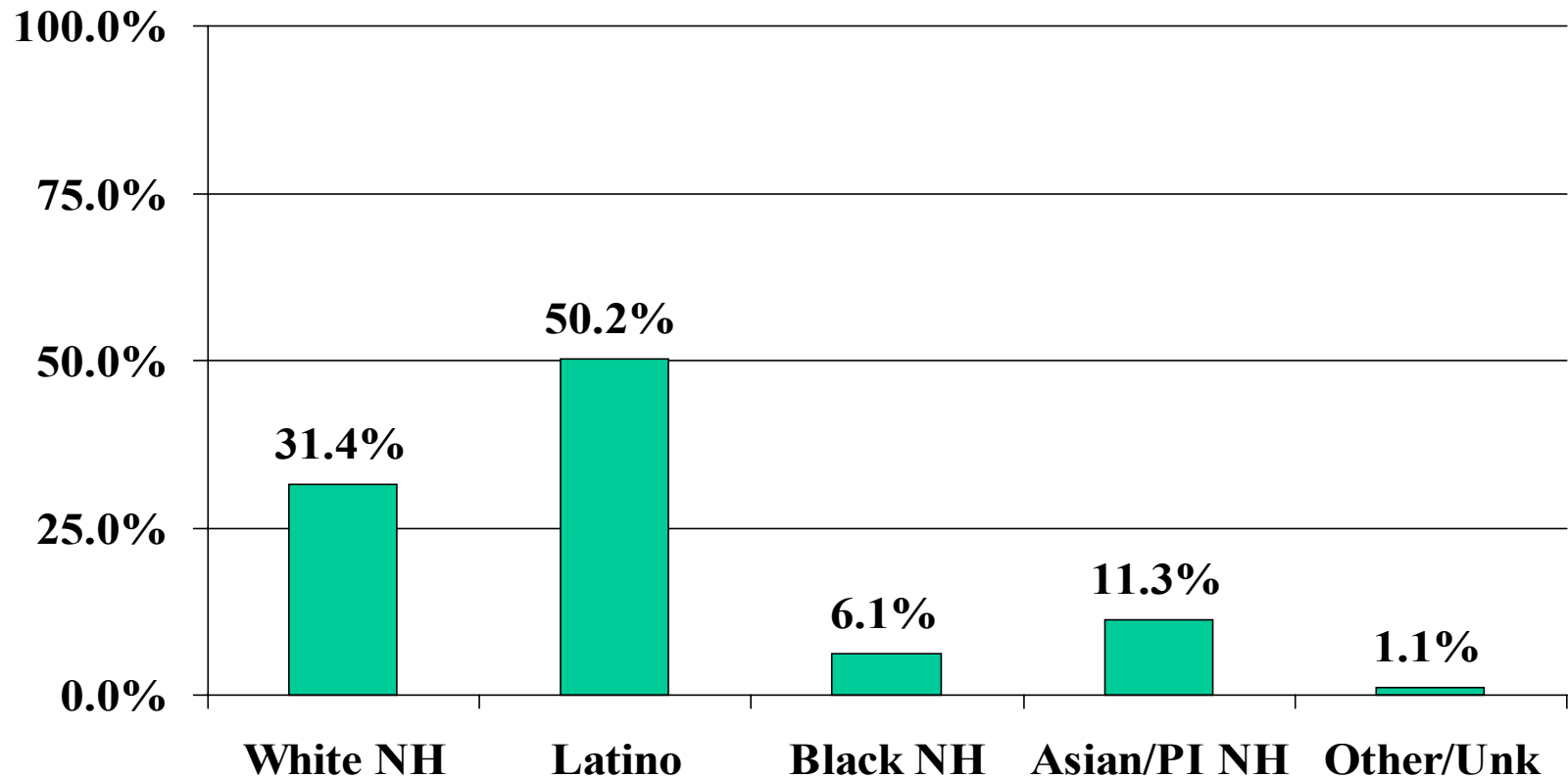
Figure 3
Latinos as Percent of All Births, California,
Four Quarters, 2001



Source: California DHS Master
Birth File, 2001

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Figure 4
Race/Ethnic Composition of Births,
California, Third Quarter, 2001

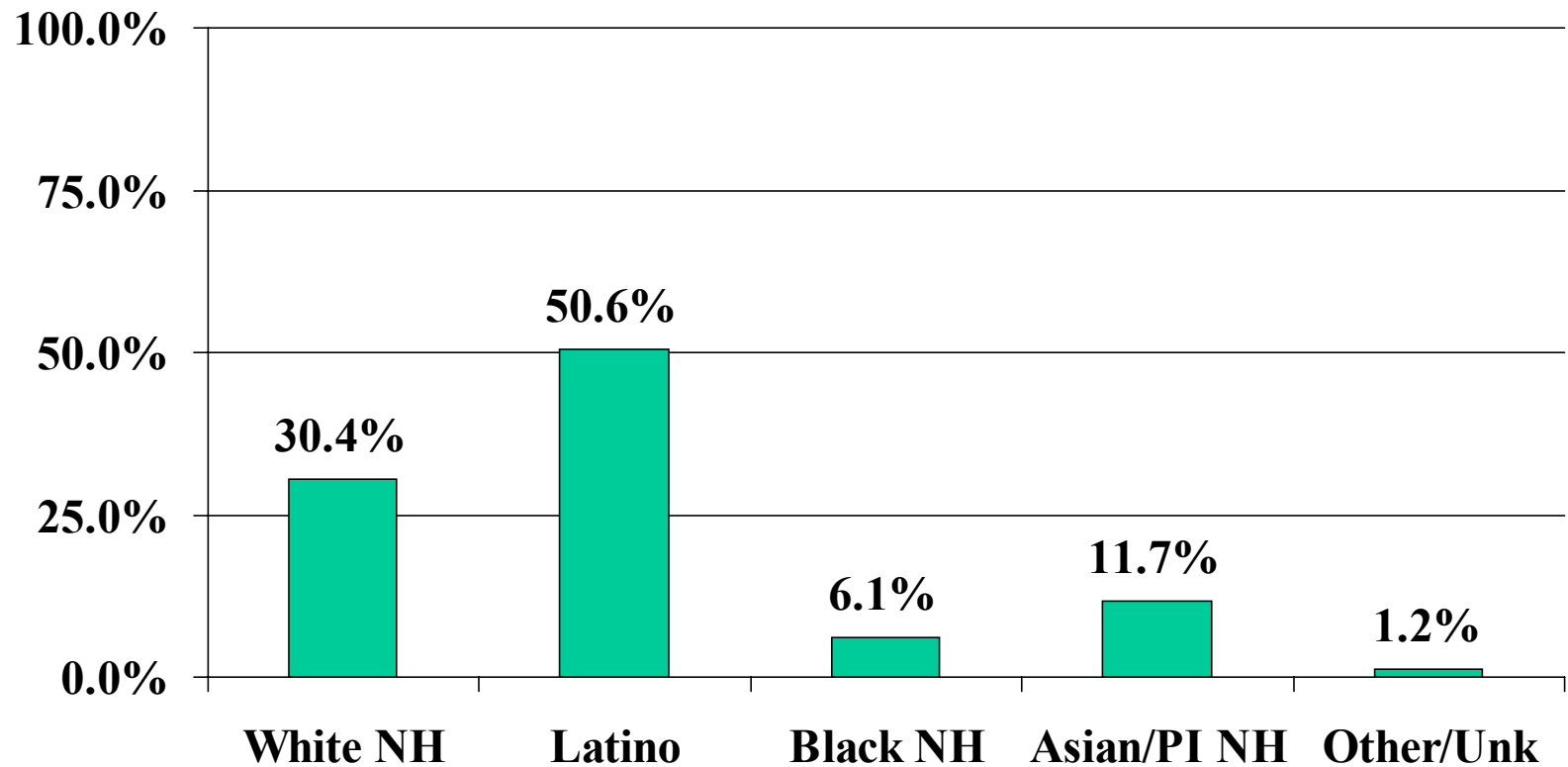


NH: Non-Hispanic

Source: California DHS Master
Birth File, 2001

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Figure 5
Race/Ethnic Composition of Births,
California, Fourth Quarter, 2001



NH: Non-Hispanic

Source: California DHS Master
Birth File, 2001

UCLA Center for the Study of Latino Health & Culture

TABLE A. Latino Births in California Counties, Third Quarter 2001 (Descending Order).

County	Percent Latino	Latino Births	Total Births
Imperial	89.2%	630	706
Monterey	71.6%	1,346	1,879
Tulare	70.0%	1,398	1,998
Madera	67.2%	387	576
San Benito	66.2%	182	275
Los Angeles	63.5%	25,610	40,328
Santa Barbara	63.3%	906	1,432
Colusa	61.7%	58	94
Merced	61.1%	642	1,051
Fresno	59.9%	2,324	3,881
Kern	57.5%	1,821	3,168
Riverside	57.3%	3,869	6,747
Kings	55.4%	293	529
San Bernardino	53.9%	4,179	7,758
Ventura	52.1%	1,560	2,992
Santa Cruz	52.0%	472	907
Orange	50.6%	6,046	11,951
Mono	50.0%	23	46
Stanislaus	48.8%	966	1,981
Glenn	47.2%	58	123
Napa	46.3%	199	430
San Diego	45.5%	5,302	11,647
San Joaquin	44.5%	1,171	2,634
Yolo	41.0%	256	624
Sonoma	36.9%	553	1,498
Santa Clara	35.4%	2,456	6,946
San Mateo	32.6%	876	2,688
Mendocino	32.1%	87	271
Sutter	31.8%	106	333
San Luis Obispo	30.8%	193	626

County	Percent Latino	Latino Births	Total Births
Alameda	29.8%	1,696	5,683
Solano	29.8%	450	1,512
Tehama	29.8%	50	168
Inyo	28.9%	13	45
Contra Costa	28.0%	977	3,486
Yuba	28.0%	70	250
Sacramento	24.8%	1,232	4,973
San Francisco	22.7%	467	2,061
Lake	20.9%	32	153
Marin	19.8%	151	761
El Dorado	19.7%	89	452
Butte	19.6%	119	606
Mariposa	18.9%	7	37
Amador	18.6%	13	70
Del Norte	16.7%	15	90
Placer	15.8%	131	827
Trinity	14.7%	5	34
Modoc	14.3%	2	14
Siskiyou	13.9%	16	115
Nevada	13.7%	28	204
Lassen	13.4%	9	67
Humboldt	13.1%	53	404
Tuolumne	11.6%	13	112
Calaveras	10.5%	10	95
Shasta	10.5%	54	513
Plumas	2.9%	1	35
Alpine	0.0%	0	3
Sierra	0.0%	0	3
Total for California	50.2%	69,672	138,892

TABLE B. Latino Births in California Counties, Third Quarter 2001 (Alphabetical Order).

County	Percent Latino	Latino Births	Total Births
Alameda	29.8%	1,696	5,683
Alpine	0.0%	0	3
Amador	18.6%	13	70
Butte	19.6%	119	606
Calaveras	10.5%	10	95
Colusa	61.7%	58	94
Contra Costa	28.0%	977	3,486
Del Norte	16.7%	15	90
El Dorado	19.7%	89	452
Fresno	59.9%	2,324	3,881
Glenn	47.2%	58	123
Humboldt	13.1%	53	404
Imperial	89.2%	630	706
Inyo	28.9%	13	45
Kern	57.5%	1,821	3,168
Kings	55.4%	293	529
Lake	20.9%	32	153
Lassen	13.4%	9	67
Los Angeles	63.5%	25,610	40,328
Madera	67.2%	387	576
Marin	19.8%	151	761
Mariposa	18.9%	7	37
Mendocino	32.1%	87	271
Merced	61.1%	642	1,051
Modoc	14.3%	2	14
Mono	50.0%	23	46
Monterey	71.6%	1,346	1,879
Napa	46.3%	199	430
Nevada	13.7%	28	204
Orange	50.6%	6,046	11,951

County	Percent Latino	Latino Births	Total Births
Placer	15.8%	131	827
Plumas	2.9%	1	35
Riverside	57.3%	3,869	6,747
Sacramento	24.8%	1,232	4,973
San Benito	66.2%	182	275
San Bernardino	53.9%	4,179	7,758
San Diego	45.5%	5,302	11,647
San Francisco	22.7%	467	2,061
San Joaquin	44.5%	1,171	2,634
San Luis Obispo	30.8%	193	626
San Mateo	32.6%	876	2,688
Santa Barbara	63.3%	906	1,432
Santa Clara	35.4%	2,456	6,946
Santa Cruz	52.0%	472	907
Shasta	10.5%	54	513
Sierra	0.0%	0	3
Siskiyou	13.9%	16	115
Solano	29.8%	450	1,512
Sonoma	36.9%	553	1,498
Stanislaus	48.8%	966	1,981
Sutter	31.8%	106	333
Tehama	29.8%	50	168
Trinity	14.7%	5	34
Tulare	70.0%	1,398	1,998
Tuolumne	11.6%	13	112
Ventura	52.1%	1,560	2,992
Yolo	41.0%	256	624
Yuba	28.0%	70	250
Total for California	50.2%	69,672	138,892

TABLE C. Latino Births in California Counties, Fourth Quarter 2001 (Descending Order).

County	Percent Latino	Latino Births	Total Births
Imperial	86.5%	627	725
Madera	70.6%	381	540
Monterey	70.0%	1,327	1,896
Tulare	69.4%	1,284	1,850
Colusa	67.0%	59	88
San Benito	65.8%	150	228
Merced	64.0%	655	1,024
Los Angeles	63.4%	24,695	38,973
Santa Barbara	63.2%	890	1,409
Fresno	60.4%	2,120	3,509
Riverside	57.9%	3,758	6,495
Kern	57.2%	1,687	2,951
Kings	56.1%	317	565
San Bernardino	55.0%	4,078	7,413
Ventura	53.9%	1,520	2,822
Mono	53.4%	31	58
Napa	52.3%	203	388
Stanislaus	51.9%	1,018	1,960
Santa Cruz	51.9%	429	826
Alpine	50.0%	2	4
Orange	49.7%	5,593	11,247
San Joaquin	46.6%	1,133	2,431
Yolo	46.2%	271	587
San Diego	44.5%	4,838	10,880
Glenn	44.0%	40	91
Sonoma	39.8%	555	1,396
Sutter	36.6%	120	328
Santa Clara	36.2%	2,429	6,709
San Luis Obispo	35.0%	214	612
San Mateo	34.4%	878	2,550

County	Percent Latino	Latino Births	Total Births
Tehama	33.1%	57	172
Mendocino	32.6%	84	258
Solano	31.6%	461	1,457
Contra Costa	30.3%	991	3,266
Inyo	30.0%	15	50
Alameda	28.7%	1,570	5,465
Yuba	27.6%	72	261
Marin	25.7%	177	688
Sacramento	25.6%	1,200	4,691
San Francisco	23.2%	479	2,068
Siskiyou	22.7%	20	88
Lake	22.2%	36	162
Del Norte	21.3%	16	75
Modoc	21.1%	4	19
El Dorado	20.9%	88	421
Butte	20.7%	115	556
Calaveras	19.2%	15	78
Lassen	17.5%	10	57
Placer	17.0%	127	749
Nevada	12.0%	25	209
Shasta	11.8%	57	484
Humboldt	10.8%	40	372
Amador	9.5%	7	74
Tuolumne	8.6%	9	105
Trinity	8.3%	2	24
Plumas	6.5%	2	31
Mariposa	4.7%	2	43
Sierra	0.0%	0	4
Total for California	50.6%	66,983	132,482

TABLE D. Latino Births in California Counties, Fourth Quarter 2001 (Alphabetical Order).

County	Percent Latino	Latino Births	Total Births
Alameda	28.7%	1,570	5,465
Alpine	50.0%	2	4
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Glenn	44.0%	40	91
Humboldt	10.8%	40	372
Imperial	86.5%	627	725
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Kern	57.2%	1,687	2,951
Kings	56.1%	317	565
Lake	22.2%	36	162
Lassen	17.5%	10	57
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Yolo	46.2%	271	587
Yuba	27.6%	72	261
Total for California	50.6%	66,983	132,482